

INFORMATIONAL LETTER #2001-2

DATE: January 26, 2001

TO: ALL IDAHO MEDICARE- &/OR MEDICAID-CERTIFIED ENTITIES
AMBULATORY SURGERY CENTERS
END STAGE RENAL DISEASE
HOME HEALTH AGENCIES
HOSPICE
HOSPITALS
ICFs/MR
SKILLED NURSING FACILITIES
RURAL HEALTH CLINICS
OUTPATIENT PHYSICAL THERAPY AND SPEECH PATHOLOGY

FROM: DEBBY RANSOM, R.N., R.H.I.T., Chief
Bureau of Facility Standards

SUBJECT: **APPENDIX Q: GUIDELINES FOR DETERMINING IMMEDIATE JEOPARDY**

The Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) has completed and released changes to "Appendix Q, Guidelines for Determining Immediate Jeopardy." The primary goals of the guidelines are to identify and prevent serious injury, harm, impairment, and/or death. In addition, the new guidelines standardize the definitions of immediate jeopardy, abuse, and neglect for all Medicare and/or Medicaid certified entities (excluding CLIA (Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendment)). "Immediate Jeopardy" replaces the once used term of "Immediate and Serious Threat."

Enclosed is a copy of the final revised Appendix Q, which we received August 03, 2000. A vertical line on the left side of each page indicates where specific change occurred. While some changes throughout the document are of a minor nature, other changes are significant. The State Agency surveyors have been trained by HCFA Region X survey staff and are incorporating the standards and guidance as outlined in the updated Appendix Q. The survey process for making a

determination of Immediate Jeopardy is outlined and includes “Triggers” and direction to alert surveyors of circumstances to be investigated.

It is HCFA’s intent to reduce or eliminate abuse and neglect to all beneficiaries. We encourage all providers to review Appendix Q.

If you have questions and/or comments, do not hesitate to contact the State Agency program supervisors at 208/334-6626.

DEBBY RANSOM, R.N., R.H.I.T., Chief
Bureau of Facility Standards

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Enclosure

cc: Idaho Hospital Association
Idaho Health Care Association
Idaho Association of Home Health Agencies
Idaho Association of Community Options and Resources